

ABSTRACT

THESIS: Facility Design & Planning to Improve Nurses' Effectiveness in
Administering Care to Fulltime Residents of Nursing Homes

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The assumption underlying this study is that a spatially well planned and appropriately furnished nursing home facility will help the nurses to perform their work more effectively and accordingly lead to more satisfaction for the residents. Research in the forms of a literature review, a movie analysis, and a field study of nursing homes in Germany and the USA, including plan annotations and observational mapping, trace study analyses and survey techniques, was conducted and revealed an unexpected urgent need for nursing home design improvement, especially in the U.S.

The research results led to the development of a catalogue of patterns which are useful in the design and planning of a nursing home to improve nurses' effectiveness in administering care to fulltime residents of nursing homes.

With the help of the developed patterns, suggestions for building renovations of two of the researched nursing homes, one American and one German, were given.